



## **Confirmation Ministry** Parent Handbook

“We believe we are Confident, Compassionate and  
Committed Children of God.”

2017-2018

Visit our Website!



Servant of Christ Lutheran Church  
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# Welcome to Servant of Christ's Faith Formation/Confirmation Program!

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the journey of Servant of Christ's confirmation ministry program. This ministry is defined as a pastoral and educational ministry in the church which helps your baptized child, through Word and Sacrament, to identify more deeply with the Christian community and to participate more fully in its mission. This faith formation process leads to the affirmation of baptism through the Rite of Confirmation.

*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with  
power through his Spirit in your inner being,  
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.*

~Ephesians 3:16-17

Baptism calls for a response from the church community, from the parents, and from the child. In the Service of Baptism, the child's parents and sponsors answer some important questions in the child's place, such as "Do you believe in God the Father...in Jesus Christ the Son of God...in God the Holy Spirit?" (LBW p.123) The parents and sponsors also promise to "faithfully bring them to the service of God's house, and teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. Place in their hands the Holy Scripture and provide for their instruction in the Christian faith." (LBW p. 121)

In the Service of Affirmation of Baptism (Rite of Confirmation) the student answers these questions personally.

Between these two milestones, Baptism and Rite of Confirmation, is confirmation ministry program. The years of faith formation are designed to assist the parents and sponsors in fulfilling the promises made at the child's baptism. Also, confirmation ministry provides the foundation which will prepare the student to affirm the faith and mission of the Christian church on the day of the Rite of Confirmation.

Servant of Christ Lutheran Church is committed to its role in response to baptism. It is important that the parents and students are also committed to their role in this response. Through our confirmation ministry, we look forward to assisting you as parents in fulfilling your baptismal promises as well as assisting in the faith development of our young people.

God's grace to all,

Pastor Eric Walbolt



## What to expect at Servant of Christ's Confirmation Ministry Program

**Getting started!** To be part of the program we ask that you **complete a registration form** and attend the **fall orientation/open house night**.

**Focus!** The confirmation ministry focus at Servant of Christ is **making disciples**, just as that is the focus of the congregation as a whole. Disciples are faithful followers, and to be a faithful follower of Jesus, students need to learn about Jesus and his teachings. Disciples also need to have a relationship with their leader, so it is our goal that students will have a passionate relationship with Jesus as their Lord.

As students learn and grow in our faith, we focus on the 3C's:  
Confident. Compassionate. Committed.

**Time commitment?** Servant of Christ's program is a three year process. Primarily confirmation ministry students are expected to attend **Wednesday evening** sessions scheduled throughout the school year (24-26 sessions per year). The specific schedule dates for this year are on the last page of this booklet.

On **Sunday mornings**, students will attend worship at Servant of Christ. Sermon Notes are papers that students complete to help them get the most out of the worship experience. During **Lent**, the six weeks prior to Easter, no regular confirmation session is held. However, students will worship at the Lenten Services on Wednesdays during Lent and complete Faith, Family and Easter Sermon notes (explained later).

**What does Confirmation look like?** The Wednesday evenings are broken into **small group** time lead by a Faith Guide and **large group** gathering of the whole group. Each part of the evening is important on building relationships and growing in faith.

### A Typical Night at Confirmation:

5:30-6:00pm – Games & Pizza in the Fellowship Hall (\$1.50/slice, pop for \$0.75/can)

6:00-6:45pm – Large Group in the Sanctuary

6:45-7:30pm – Small Groups

7:30-8pm – Hang out if you want to!

**Start now!** Parents have the greatest influence on children's faith development. You can start now by praying for your child's faith, taking this confirmation experience seriously and making Wednesday sessions and Sunday worship a priority for you and your family. Have recap discussions in your car on the way home about what your child learned, and talk about the sermon after church on Sundays.

**Contact us?** If you have questions or would like to volunteer in any way, please feel free to contact a staff person, by calling Servant of Christ at 763-427-5070 x209. You may also send an email to [calvink@servantofchrist.com](mailto:calvink@servantofchrist.com).

# Goals and Responsibilities in Confirmation

## Our program has five (5) goals:

1. Students will learn and know the Biblical story of our Christian faith.
2. Students will understand the basics of Lutheran Doctrine.
3. Students will come to the point of assurance in his/her salvation through Jesus Christ.
4. Students will build relationships with pastors, youth director, other Christian adults, and fellow students.
5. The church will serve as a partner (not a substitute) for parents in nurturing the faith development of their young people.

**We are deeply committed to meeting these goals as the  
Church community of Servant of Christ,  
the students and the parents.**

## Servant of Christ will provide:

1. Small group settings for learning and encouragement.
2. Bible-centered, doctrinally sound curriculum.
3. Effective, trained Faith Guides, youth director and pastor(s).
4. Further engagement through retreats, camps and other activities.
5. Opportunities for youth to learn and grow in their relationship with Christ.

## The student will:

1. Attend Wednesday night sessions (a total of **seven** (7) absences permitted each year, no more than **two** (2) in a row).
2. Serve in two service projects each year.
3. Complete **fifteen** (15) worship journals for the year (5 can be done via podcast).
4. Complete **four** (4) *Family, Faith and Easter* notes during Lent.
5. Participate in and give full effort to all written, small group, and volunteer work.
6. Attend Sunday worship services and commune regularly with the congregation.
7. Act in a way that shows a desire to grow in discipleship and encourages others.
8. Seek to become an active member of the church during (and after!) the Faith Formation/Confirmation process.

## The parents will:

1. Encourage their student in all areas of faith formation.
2. Worship and commune with your student.
3. Pray for and support the Servant of Christ staff and Faith Formation program.
4. Encourage their student to participate in the youth program: Jr. High/ Confirmation for 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>; Senior High Ministry 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>
5. Notify church staff with any information that would be helpful for them to know about the student, family or life situation. (763-427-5070 x209).
6. Attend the orientation meeting, EQUIP parent nights, and any other meetings called due to your child's progress.
7. Attend 2 EQUIP Parent Nights. EQUIP (Encouraging Quality Interactions in Parenting) is a program to give parents the opportunity to sharpen their spiritual leadership skills for their family (there are 4 each year).

# Program Expectation Information

Students will be admitted into the next year *only* when all the requirements have been met. These standards are set to provide students with realistic and concrete opportunities through which they may grow and mature in their walk with Christ.

## 1. Attendance

In our Faith Formation programming, we strive to establish a community that fosters Christian friendships and helps youth to grow together in Christ. It is very difficult to build these relationships if a young person has poor attendance. Guides or the Confirmation Director will notify parents after **3 consecutive absences** and/or when the student is in danger of missing more than 7 total sessions.

*In the event that attendance is a problem, a meeting with the student, parents, guide, and/or staff will be arranged to discuss the student's progress and standing in Confirmation.*

## 2. Sermon Notes Sheets

Sermon Notes encourage students to focus on important aspects of worship and to engage them more fully in worship. They focus especially on the power of prayer and what it means to bring our concerns to God. Students can pick up a blank form outside the youth office; fill them out during and after the service and then return completed forms (with parent signatures) to the youth office. Students are **expected to complete at least 15 Sermon Notes** (1/2 with parent signatures) throughout the year with the intent that it will help the student to have a deeper, more knowledgeable worship experience. Students may complete worship journals for churches that they are visiting as well.

*Parents will be notified and a meeting may be called if a student is falling behind on worship journals and all parties will discuss the student's progress and standing in Confirmation. Students may have to make up sermon notes over the summer months.*

## 3. Service Projects

Service is one of the core values of both Servant of Christ and our Faith Formation Program. Students must attend the service events planned and organized by the Servant of Christ Confirmation Program.

*Please notify both your confirmation guide and the youth director if your student is unable to participate in a planned service project so that other arrangements can be made.*

## 4. Faith, Family and Easter Sheets

Lent is such an important time for both families and the church and students are expected to attend Lenten services with their families. In addition families are to pick up an FFE sheet in the office and fill them out together after Lenten services. A minimum of **four** sheets are required. Students need to submit completed forms to their guide.

## 5. Discipline

We will not tolerate behavior that detracts from the experience of growing together in Christ or that disrupts the relationships that are being built. If guides or staff feel that a student's behavior is *clearly inappropriate*, the student will be held responsible. Once a student is warned to stop the inappropriate behavior, further action may be taken. Such discipline problems will be handled in the following manner:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense**            Student will be removed from the classroom and speak with either Calvin or our resident bouncer, Jeff Engle. Parents may or may not be contacted depending on the behavior issue and the resolution.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense**            Student is temporarily removed from the classroom and parents are notified.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense**            Student is removed from the classroom until student, parents, guide and staff can meet to discuss the student's behavior. This may result in the necessity of the parents attending small group with their son/daughter.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Offense**            Student is permanently removed from the classroom and will have to repeat the year of Faith Formation programming.

## 6. Technology

**Cell phones, iPods,** and other electronic devices may or may not be used depending on the leadership style of the small group leader. Bible apps on phones and iPods can be a great tool, but the Faith Guide may prefer that students bring a hardcopy of a Bible to write in, or they may prefer to leave phones out of the small group entirely. No matter the view of the Faith Guide, students should be respectful in group if they are or are not using their phones, iPods and other electronic devices.

## 7. Dress Code

**Clothing** must not promote alcohol, violence or drugs. Parents should use their best discretion in what clothing their children are wearing to the Confirmation program, both in modesty and what it promotes.